

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended)

~~Medium~~ A medium for cultivating and producing mites, ~~and especially mites~~ belonging to at least one of the following species group consisting of *Dermatophagoids pteronyssinus*, *Dermatophagoides farinae*, *Blomia kulagini* ~~or tropicalis~~, *Pyroglyphus africanus*, ~~and Euroglyphus maynei~~, characterized in that which is free from human or animal elements or proteins and comprises ~~in effective amount~~ amounts, a plurality of amino acids in particulate form with a particle size of less than 250 μm , or in ~~lyophilized~~ lyophilised form.

Claim 2 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, characterized in that which it comprises amino acids obtained by grinding amino acids.

Claim 3 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 2, characterized in that which it comprises ~~lyophilised~~ lyophilized amino acids and/or amino acids obtained commercially.

Claim 4 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, characterized in that which it comprises ~~lyophilised~~ lyophilized amino acids and amino acids obtained commercially.

Claim 5 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, characterized in that wherein it contains salts.

Claim 6 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the mixture of amino acids contains at least 50% of amino acids which naturally make up proteins or the equivalents thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the mixture of amino acids reproduces the spectrum of amino acids that make up keratin or the stratum corneum.

Claim 8 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the mixture of amino acids reproduces the spectrum of amino acids present in shrimp eggs or in soya.

Claim 9 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 7, characterized in that wherein the respective proportions of the amino acids are similar to the quantitative proportions of the

amino acids and salts in ~~substances such as~~ keratin or the stratum corneum or shrimp eggs or soya.

Claim 10 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the respective proportions of the amino acids are similar to the quantitative proportions of the amino acids and salts found in a substance selected from the group consisting of ~~substances such as keratin, or the stratum corneum, or shrimp eggs and or soya.~~

Claim 11 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ which it also contains other conventional elements of nutrient media for mites, intended to provide supplementary nutrition and/or give the medium a texture suitable for the development and multiplication of the mites.

Claim 12 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ which it also contains wheat germs and/or yeast, especially baker's yeast, and/or cyanocobalamine and/or d-biotin.

Claim 13 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, characterized in that which it may
~~contain~~ contains soya.

Claim 14 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 1, characterized in that which it
contains at least 50% of the following amino acids:

- L-alanine
- L-arginine
- L-aspartic acid
- L-cysteine/cystine
- L-glutamic acid
- glycine
- L-histidine
- L-isoleucine
- L-leucine
- L-Lysine
- L-methionine
- L-phenylalanine
- L-proline
- L-serine

- L-threonine
- L-tryptophane
- L-tyrosine and
- L-valine.

Claim 15 (currently amended)

~~Medium according to~~ The medium of claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ which it contains the amino acids in the following proportions, adding up to a total of 93.711 g:

- L-alanine	3.8 g
- L-arginine	4.2 g
- L-aspartic acid	5.2 g
- L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate	
expressed as L-cysteine/L-cystine	1.7 g
- L-glutamic acid	11.5 g
- glycine	2.7 g
- L-histidine	3.1 g
- L-isoleucine	5.0 g
- L-leucine	6.7 g
- L-lysine hydrochloride, expressed	
as L-lysine	5.0 g

- L-methionine	2.4 g
- L-phenylalanine	7.0 g
- L-proline	10.3 g
- L-serine	9.6 g
- L-threonine	3.8 g
- L-tryptophane	1.3 g
- L-tyrosine	0.6 g
- L-valine	5.5 g
- calcium chloride dehydrate	0.44g
- magnesium sulphate heptahydrate	0.493g
- sodium hydroxide	0.6 g
- potassium hydroxide	0.70 g <u>and</u>
- potassium chloride	0.078 g

Claims 16 to 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (new)

A medium of claim 1 wherein said mites belong to at least one of the following species: *Dermatophagoids pteronyssinus*, *Dermatophagoides farinae*, *Blomia kulagini* or *tropicalis*, *Pyroglyphus africanus*, and *Euroglyphus maynei*.